



THE Outlook

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Music is in the air



VHS band, chorus perform for community

Above: The Vicenza High School Chorus performs "Alleluia" by W. A. Mozart, arrangement by Russell Robinson, at the beginning of the high school band and chorus concert March 16 at the school gym.

Left: Vicenza High School Band Members perform with the band "If" by David Gates, arrangement by Eric Osterling, during the musical tribute to African American and multi-cultural heritage and to world peace. Music Director Geri Shimabukuro conducted the band and chorus that presented a program with a variety of musical pieces and songs including classics and traditional folk songs. (Photos by Laura Kreider, Outlook Staff)

Pay, allowances recognize troops' contributions

By Gerry J. Gilmore
American Forces Press Service

Since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, Defense Department leaders and U.S. legislators "have worked together to increase servicemembers' basic pay by more than 21 percent," a senior DoD official told House Armed Services Committee members March 16.

DoD remains "committed to taking care of servicemembers and their families through appropriate compensation while members are deployed and serving their country in dangerous locations around the world," Charles S. Abell noted in his prepared statements given before the Military Personnel Subcommittee. Abell is the principal deputy undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness.

U.S. troops are slated for a 3.1 percent across-the-board pay raise this year, Abell noted. Additionally, he added, the department has met its goal of eliminating troops' average out-of-pocket housing costs by 2005. In fact, he noted, military housing allowances are 41 percent greater than they were in 2001.

Troops serving in dangerous overseas

These pays and allowances acknowledge the hardship and danger involved at these deployment locations, as well as the sacrifice associated with tours away from family.

Charles S. Abell
Principal Deputy Undersecretary of Defense
for Personnel and Readiness

locales receive various types of tax relief, depending upon rank and income, as well as additional compensation in view of their contributions in fighting and sustaining America's fight against terrorism, Abell said.

For example, eligible enlisted troops deployed to combat zones have their military pay exempted from federal income tax, Abell noted. In addition to their regular pay, these troops also receive \$225 monthly in danger pay, Abell noted, as well as a \$250 monthly family separation allowance.

Abell noted that troops deployed to overseas combat zones also receive hardship

duty pay of \$100 a month and a \$105 monthly incidental expense allowance.

An accumulation of such added compensation typically amounts to more than \$700 in added monthly pay for married servicemembers, he said, and more than \$500 for the typical single troop during deployment.

"These pays and allowances acknowledge the hardship and danger involved at these deployment locations," Abell pointed out, "as well as the sacrifice associated with tours away from family."

And, troops who volunteer to extend their overseas tours of duty in combat zones like Afghanistan and Iraq also can receive an additional \$1,000 monthly in assignment incentive pay, Abell noted.

DoD also wants to work with Congress, Abell said, to increase servicemembers' hardship duty pay. And the department is seeking to keep its Special Operations troops in uniform through an array of incentive packages, he noted.

For example, "we are offering bonuses of up to \$150,000 for highly skilled senior noncommissioned officers to serve an additional six years," Abell noted.

Support Our Troops Day



Bring out the whole family for the Support Our Troops Day/Egg Festival on Saturday at Hoekstra Field.

Events will kick off at 10 a.m. with children's activity stations, including egg decorating, card making, yellow ribbons, bracelets and photos with Mr. Bunny, provided by MWR and AAFES.

USO hosts a giant "Yellow Ribbon" where you can write a special message to your favorite Soldier down range.

You will also be able to send a video message to loved ones down range with "Hello Honey" messages filmed by AFN.

Don't miss the traditional egg rolling competition with prizes for the winners.

And what Egg Festival would be complete without an Egg Hunt? The hunt will begin at 11:30 a.m., so make sure you're not late.

For more information call the MWR Marketing Department at 634-7343.

Army launches environmental management system worldwide

By Greg Vallery and Tim Rensema
22nd ASG Vicenza and AST-Livorno
Environmental Management Offices

The U.S. Army has taken the lead in implementing a new management system at its installations throughout the world. Known as the Environmental Management System, it is a management approach applicable to all activities, operations, and processes conducted within the Army’s footprint. At the heart of the EMS is the principle that every individual within a community must understand how his or her activities affect the environment. People should be aware of the proper procedures to reduce or avoid adverse impacts on the environment. Additionally, they

should actively participate in recognizing and addressing any environmental issues that arise as a result of those activities. Many well-known multinational companies have embraced EMS as a sound business strategy to address global issues, local plant issues, and environmental business decisions. Companies such as Ford Motor Company, Lockheed Martin, Procter and Gamble, Apple, IBM, and McDonalds all have certified Environmental Management Systems in place. Documented advantages realized by these companies as a result of EMS implementation include reduced liability, reduced operating costs, improved document accessibility, and increased competitive advantage in the marketplace.

The 22nd ASG Vicenza and AST Livorno have each developed detailed plans to fully adopt EMS. As a part of the EMS, environmental goals are being established for each community. These goals will be developed for military activities that have the most significant impacts to the environment. Every individual within our community will be held responsible by their command to help achieve these environmental goals. Through the end of March, the 22nd ASG Vicenza and AST-Livorno will be conducting EMS awareness building activities with the intention of involving all levels of the military community. For more information, contact Greg Vallery at the Vicenza Environmental Management Office at 634-8941 or Tim Rensema at the AST-Livorno Environmental Management Office at 633-8208.

New online POSH training

A new IMA-E Prevention of Sexual Harassment online training is now available to the Vicenza and Livorno communities. This is a very comprehensive program with a test/evaluation and results reported to the Equal Employment Opportunity office. The online program will also allow EEO to provide your organization with attendance data and organizational data is automatically reported to IMA-E as well. Included in the training is a portion on sexual misconduct. The training is open to all civilians, appropriated funds, non-appropriated funds, local nationals and military supervisors of civilian employees. Since it is a DA requirement that military supervisors attend the civilian POSH training to familiarize themselves with the civilian complaints procedures, this would be an ideal opportunity for them to complete this requirement. The training will be available through August 31 and will satisfy DA’s mandatory training requirement for FY05. Employees also have the option of attending the monthly classroom training offered by the EEO office. They do not have to complete both the online and classroom training to get credit for FY05. Employees must contact the EEO office to reserve a space at the monthly classing training. Employees can access the training online at: <http://training.newmedialearning.com/psh/usarmyimae/index.htm>. Call Cindy Pierson at 634-7976 or Ric Medina at 634-7914 for more information or assistance.

Celebrating VHS winter athletes

Vicenza High School winter athletes pose for a photo following a banquet to honor their accomplishments held March 11. Recognized during the ceremony where students who participated in the Mako Sharks swim team, the VHS girls basketball team, the VHS boys basketball team, the VHS wrestling team, and the VHS cheerleading squad. Some students also received athletic academic awards for their accomplishments. (Photo by Laura Kreider, Outlook Staff)

Community Action Council

This forum is to discuss issues that affect the community. If you have an issue that you would like to submit, visit the 22nd Area Support Group Web site at www.22asg.vicenza.army.mil and click on the Community Action Council link. This link provides you the opportunity to review issues that have been previously submitted and responded to by post agencies. There is also a form available for you to submit any new issue you would like addressed. If you have any questions, call 634-5222 or 0444-71-5222 from off post. The command encourages you to identify yourself when submitting a CAC issue in order to be able to answer your concern directly. The next CAC is Wednesday at 9 a.m. in the Ederle Theater. Childcare is offered during the CAC at \$2.50 per hour, per child for children ages 6 weeks through kindergarten from 8:45-11:15 a.m. Pre-registration is required. Children will be cared for in the Child Development Center, Building 395. Children must be registered with Child and Youth Services Central Registration. Call 634-7219 or stop by their new location in Davis Hall. **Issue:** Would it be possible to create a questionnaire/comment form for outgoing tenants of a private rental to fill out that would pass on information about that private rental and surrounding area to future renters? For example, the outgoing tenant could leave information about the town and its stores (hardware, grocery, etc). The outgoing tenant could also leave information about the house

and things the outgoing tenant has learned, such as driving routes. We live in a private rental and have discovered a great grocery store where the employees are friendly and helpful, a park for the children to run around and local restaurants. Since living on the economy is much more of a challenge than living at Villaggio, it might be helpful if information such as this could be provided, as it might help relieve feelings of isolation and helplessness. **Response from Directorate of Public Works:** The Housing Office wishes to thank the individual submitting this issue for an excellent idea. Living on the economy in a foreign country certainly has its challenges not to mention the inability of most residents to speak the language. Anything that can be done to help relieve the feelings of isolation, uncertainty and occasionally even helplessness is a great benefit to not only individuals in that situation but the military community as a whole. While housing already captures feedback from outgoing private rental tenants regarding their level of satisfaction with their landlord and the rental property, it doesn’t receive information regarding local Italian comune amenities, such as parks, favorite restaurants and shopping opportunities at local grocery stores, markets, hardware stores, etc. In the future, our outgoing private rental tenant checklist will be amended to capture this type of information, by comune, for continual updates and publication. **Issue:** Presently the Ederle Theater shows PG and G-rated movies during the week at 7 p.m. Is there a possibility to change the time to 5 p.m.?

I would also like to suggest that during the summer could you have more children movies. **Response from AAFES:** (Note: A similar CAC issue about family-friendly movies showing at the Ederle Theater was printed in the Feb. 22 issue of *The Outlook*.) This spring AAFES commences our Operation Family program, which is part of the community home front program, April 1. As part of this program, the Ederle Theater will incorporate showing family-orientated movies on a trial basis every Wednesday in April. Movie times will be announced at a later date as we are surveying our movie patrons at the theater for feedback. After implantation, depending on community usage, we will determine if we can continue this service. We are also in the process of developing a summer matinee program with family-orientated movies. We will provide specific details at a later date. During school spring break, the Ederle Theater will offer the following movie matinees: April 11 at 3:30 p.m. – Scobby-Doo 2: Monsters Unleashed (PG) April 13 at 3:30 p.m. – Finding Nemo (G) April 15 at 3:30 p.m. – Brother Bear (G) **Issue:** I recently received a parking ticket in the Club V parking lot. The next day, there was vehicle parked in the exact same place, but there were no military police out issuing tickets. In the five years I have worked here, parking has been impossible. I have personally driven through the Club V parking lot, searching for a parking place, and could not travel between cars, especially when construction vehicles were parked in the lot, having to reverse through automobile obstacles and what not.

Regardless of initial improvements on post, parking will continue to be an issue. Until the installation can remedy adequate parking for personnel residing or working on post, specifically during lunch time, parking will continue to be chaotic, unclear, and inadequate. I am in total agreement to adhering to parking rules and to solving the parking issues on post. But, if the PMO intends to enforce strict parking rules in the Club V parking lot and in front of the post office, then notification should be made to the public well in advance. **Response from the Office of the Provost Marshal:** Military Police officers will continue to cite individuals who park illegally on post. If you observe illegally parked cars that block access or present a hazard, please notify the MP desk at 634-7626, and an MP patrol will be dispatched accordingly. **Issue:** Many people sort the junk from their relevant mail while standing in the community mail room. Can we place a paper recycling container in the mailroom so that unwanted mail is recycled instead of being thrown away? Also, the Self Help office on Villaggio has a great little cylindrical container for recycling batteries, but most people don’t get there often enough to hold onto their batteries for eventual recycling. Can we place a container in the mailroom? **Response from 22nd Area Support Group S-1:** We have installed the battery recyclable container inside the CMR, however, the small round trash cans currently located inside the CMR will remain and we will add paper recycling containers inside the mailroom. As a reminder to the community, it is also everyone’s responsibility to help keep our mailroom clean and free of litter.

1-508th boots hit the ground

Story and photo by **Spc. Jon Arguello**
173d Airborne Brigade Public Affairs

In the early morning of Feb. 24 the 1st Battalion, 508th Infantry (Airborne), also known as Task Force Fury, of the 173d Airborne Brigade loaded their bags and equipment into trucks, and then, after a series of manifest checks, quickly loaded onto buses and headed north to Aviano Air Base where they would wait to once again begin writing another chapter in their already distinguished history.

From Aviano, the battalion was flown to a neighboring country near Afghanistan's border in a commercial jet. The third leg of the trip was about a two-hour C-130 Hercules flight to Bagram Air Base in northern Afghanistan.

Finally, the battalion's paratroopers were lifted to Paktika Province via U. S. Marine Corps CH-53 Sea Stallions and Army CH-47 Chinook helicopters. The Red Devil's transports were escorted by AH-64 Apache and AH-1 Marine Huey Cobra attack helicopters to where they will spend the majority of their yearlong tour. The lift was a dramatic demonstration of American firepower and air mobility, fitting of the battalion's paratroopers' war fighting capabilities.

The 1-508th deployed ahead of the rest of the brigade due to "time on the ground" rotations. The two remaining battalions, the 2d Battalion, 503d Infantry (Airborne) and the 173d Support Battalion (Airborne) along with the brigade's separate companies will follow within the next few weeks.

TF Fury will not be working under the command of the 173d during its rotation to Afghanistan. Initially, TF Fury will fall under Joint Task Force Thunder from the 25th Infantry Division (Light), Schoefield Barracks, Hawaii.

Later this spring, the 82nd Airborne



1st Battalion, 508th Infantry (Airborne) Soldiers rest during the two-hour journey from a neighboring country to Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan.

Division will assume command and control responsibilities.

The battalion's mother brigade remains the 173d Abn Bde, however, due to Department of Defense "boots on the ground" rotational policies, the 1-508th will be swapped with one of the 82nd Airborne's battalions, whose rotation is in line with the 173d Abn Bde's.

"The rotation of forces into the theater are based on time on the ground back at home station and time on the ground for deployed units, both of which are approximately one year," explained Maj. Gregory Harkins, the 173d Brigade's adjutant. "In this case, TF Fury's timeline matched the timeline of a 25th ID unit operating out of the sector from the rest of the 173d Brigade. In exchange, the 173d Airborne Brigade will have the 2nd Battalion, 504th Infantry, working for it during the next year."

The fact that the battalion will not be working under the 173d Abn Bde has raised questions for the families of the Soldiers in the 1-508th.

Although TF Fury will be working under a different brigade during its deployment to Afghanistan, every effort will be made to keep families up to date with their Soldiers, said Command Sgt. Maj. Jeffery Hof, the battalion sergeant major.

"We know how important it is to the families to know what is going on," said Hof. "We are dedicated to not leave the families back in Vicenza or the states in the dark just because we're not working under the 173d."

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As far as actual contact between the Soldiers and their families, the change in the chain of command should make little difference, Hof said.

"The Soldiers should have roughly the same capabilities to call or email home through facilities such as the Morale Welfare and Recreation center," he said.

Soldiers have already been contacting their loved ones and letting them know they have arrived safely.

Spc. Sash Zlatanovic, a 1-508th scout, and Operation Iraqi Freedom veteran, waiting to use the MWR center's phones to contact his family said, like many Soldiers, he was dealing with the inconveniences of deployment but he is focused on the task at hand.

Zlatanovic said he was looking forward to deployment a little more than most Soldiers.

"Although there are sacrifices to be made, they have to be made. It's pretty exciting. You look into the eyes of these people and they

are happy to see us. We are making a difference," he said.

Zlatanovic said he looks at his job with a good perspective because his parents came from Serbia to find a better life in America, and that he felt he could contribute to improving the lives of people in Afghanistan.

"People don't know [Americans] until they meet us," said Zlatanovic. "People have their prejudices and biases but once they befriend an American, it's a whole different world. I think our work here will fortify the Afghani's

confidence and trust in America."

Many Soldiers of the 1-508th, while acknowledging the personal sacrifice, feel a sense of responsibility.

"I feel like I should be here," said Pfc. Trent Perkins, an infantryman with 3rd Platoon Bravo Company. "I am doing something for my country. I'm doing my job. It's a responsibility I can't deny. It's hard being away from family, but I get a lot of support from home."

Support from home will be very important as the months ahead will not be easy.

"The mission in Afghanistan is an extremely complex one," said Hof. "There are regions in Afghanistan where the anti-coalition forces are rampant. This is not just a humanitarian aid mission, such as the Tsunami effort. We are here to help the Afghani people build a stable and secure country."

"To lay the foundations for that environment to materialize, we have to remove those anti-coalition forces from the picture," Hof said.

The Soldiers of TF Fury don't know what the year will bring them. The snows covering the Paktika Province will soon begin to recede allowing anti-coalition forces more capability to maneuver and reports of their annual spring attacks have already begun to appear in the press.

"They might be able to move around easier," Hof said. "But the improving weather also means we'll be able to chase them down better too."

The Soldiers of the 1-508th share that confidence.

"The sooner they come out of hiding, the sooner we can take them out," said Perkins. "[Bravo Company] and Third Platoon are very confident about our capabilities."

"Paratroopers are held to a higher standard. We have surpassed those standards in the past and we will again here in Afghanistan," Perkins said.

***"I am doing something
for my country. I'm
doing my job.
It's a responsibility
I can't deny."***

Pfc. Trent Perkins
3rd Platoon, Bravo Company
1st Battalion, 508th In (Abn)

SETAF Soldiers meet coalition on International Day on Bagram Air Base

Story and photo
By **Sgt. Adrian Schulte**
CJTF-76 Public Affairs

Walking around Bagram Air Base, servicemembers are confronted with uniforms from across the globe. The coalition that is fighting the war on terrorism is truly visible.

March 5, the troops got a chance to interact with their global allies during an international day.

"We got all the forces that are out here participating in the war on terrorism and they got the opportunity to show what they do and some things about their country," said Sgt. 1st Class Mary White, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 25th Infantry Division, who organized the event. "It shows that it is not just Americans here. It's a good thing for the Soldiers from all the countries

represented here to get to see that everyone is working together as one. Also it's a way to say hello to the incoming troops and a way to say goodbye to the 25th."

Ten nations were on hand from Canada to New Zealand, Poland to Korea. The Soldiers set up static displays showing off their military equipment. There were also culinary displays. Soldiers were able to sample sausages from Germany and vegemite spread from Australia.

There were cultural displays as well culminating with a Tae Kwon Do presentation by Korean soldiers.

"We got to see some of the commonalities we have as soldiers," White said. "Even the people that don't speak each other's language, there is still a way that they are communicating. They are going from booth to booth talking. There is a type of camaraderie that

is being built."

It was unique opportunity for the incoming CJTF-76 personnel to meet their allies who they will be interacting and working with for the next year.

"It was definitely important and good for morale," said Staff Sgt. Susana Chavez, SETAF strength management NCO, and one of the new CJTF-76 Soldiers. "I got to see a lot of new things. For instance, I didn't know they had women in the Korean army. I also got to meet a female captain from New Zealand who is a tanker. We are all working together."

"It was exciting to see all the forces on Bagram and being able to actually see the equipment that they work with," Chavez said.

While the events of the year ahead may not be known, at least now the Soldiers of CJTF-76 know whom they will be spending it with.



Soldiers from SETAF Headquarters Support Company meet one of their Korean counterparts during an international day held on Bagram Air Base March 5.

Vicenza Soldier wins ERDC NCO of Year



From left: Sgt. Major Mack Byrd, European Region Dental Command, Staff Sgt. Danielle Font, NCO of the Year for ERDC, Spc. Fernando Venegas, Soldier of the Year for ERDC, and Col. Michael Cuenin, ERDC commander, cut a cake during the award ceremony for the two enlisted Soldiers. (Photo courtesy of Staff Sgt. Danielle Font)

By Diana Bahr
22nd ASG Public Affairs

When Staff Sgt. Danielle Font decided it was time for a promotion, she approached her noncommissioned officer in charge, Sgt. 1st Class Jennifer Crook.

“When I told Sergeant Crook I wanted to go for a promotion, she said, ‘Let’s see how well you do at boards,’ and submitted me for the NCO of the Quarter for the dental command,” said Font, a mother of three who works at the Vicenza Dental Clinic and is a registered dental hygienist.

“When I began working with Staff Sergeant Font, it was very obvious that she already had the dedication and determination needed to be successful,” said Crook, who won the European Region Dental Command NCO of the Year in 2001. “Anyone who has gone through this process knows how much personal time goes into

the preparation for a board.

“I had an NCO who took personal interest and time in helping to prepare me. Knowing that someone cares and is willing to help and stand by your side means a lot,” said Crook. “Everyone is busy and there is never a “good time” to break away, but Soldiers deserve that. I was honored to attempt to do the same with her and share some of my experiences.”

Font not only had to prepare for the oral portion of the board, but she also had to be prepared for the competition that consisted of land navigation, common Soldier skills tasks, weapons qualification, physical fitness test, written test, and a road march.

“She did so while continuing to work at the dental clinic everyday, as well as taking care of her husband and three children when she went home,” said Crook. “Obviously, time management is another one of her strengths because she did it all

without missing a beat.

“It has always been her number one priority to show her Soldiers this can be done,” said Crook. “Leading by example is one of the ways she motivates them to strive for the top.”

The competition was a first for Font, but she breezed through the board and was selected. After that, she competed with the other NCOs of the Quarter for the Dental NCO of the Year at Landstuhl, coming away the winner at that level. She then advanced to the ERDC NCO of the Year competition in Heidelberg, Germany.

“When I got to Heidelberg,” said Font. “Sergeant Major Mack Byrd told us at the ice breaker the night before the event began, that he hoped we were in good mental and physical condition, because we would need to be.”

The first day of the five-day event found Font and five other Soldiers taking an Army Physical Fitness Test in the snow. This was followed by a

trip to a range where they had to quickly zero and qualify on weapons supplied by the ERDC. After the range, they found themselves on a six-mile road march back to the installation.

“The road march was the hardest part of the test,” said Font. “I had been training for the road march wearing a rucksack and LBE, but at the competition we were required to wear a flak vest. I wasn’t prepared for the extra weight and found it a bit difficult.”

Day two was a day for the group to relax and take in the sights of Heidelberg. The group would need the break, as day three would find them in the field again.

“We spent day three being tested on our day and night land navigation skills,” said Font. “In between those events we went through Common Task Training.”

Day four found the group taking a timed test consisting of 102 questions, followed by an oral board.

And then it was time to find out who would walk away NCO of the Year.

“We had no idea until the end

who won,” said Font. “We were rehearsing for the award ceremony and we still didn’t know who was the winner!”

“Naturally I was excited and proud when I won, because this means I have the opportunity to represent the entire European Dental Region at San Antonio,” she said. “I think this is a great opportunity to get my name out there, and come promotion time, it will be in my record.”

“My husband is very proud of my accomplishment,” she said. “But he is also a mentor and played a major role by helping me with my common task training and studying.

Among the gifts Font received for being awarded NCO of the Year were two trips to Paris.

Unfortunately the trips will have to wait as her husband, Sgt. Jinez Font, SETAF G-3, is deploying to Afghanistan soon.

Font will be competing in the Dental Command NCO of the Year board April 7-11.

“She will be competing against the other NCOs of the Year from each region around the world,” said Crook. “I hope they come prepared.”

Dental bus returns, makes deployment preparation quicker for Soldiers

Story and photo by Diana Bahr
22nd ASG Public Affairs

A familiar sight to many of the 173d Airborne Brigade veterans of Operation Iraqi Freedom is parked behind the Fitness Center.

The big red dental bus is back and inside, Capt. Chad Bangerter, brigade dentist, and his assistant, Sgt. Julio Carmona, are ensuring that the SETAF and brigade Soldiers are deployable.

A year ago, when the Soldiers redeployed from Iraq, the bus was sent down to help handle the reintegration of the troops, and its benefits to the community were immediately noticed as the Soldiers were able to move quickly through the reintegration process.

“The bus came down from the European Dental Command in Germany, in December because we needed the extra facilities,” said Bangerter. “When we held PDPs [pre-deployment processing] and SRPs [Soldier Readiness Processing] in the past, we couldn’t accommodate them on site as well as we would have liked to.

“We wanted to do a complete, thorough, exam,” said Bangerter. “The way we were set up in the gym, we couldn’t take X-ray’s inside the gym and it compromised our exams. This van allows us to do a complete exam and provide good service to our Soldiers.

“Also, we’re right here on the PDP site,”

said Bangerter, “and this makes it faster for the Soldiers to process through the PDP as it eliminates having them leave the area and go up to the dental clinic.”

The bus, one of two based out of Heidelberg, is usually sent to military installations in Europe that don’t have dental facilities, according to Bangerter. It’s

outfitted with two dental chairs for patients, a digital X-ray machine and is capable of providing basic dental exams, as well as more complicated procedures like root canals and tooth extractions.

“Right now we’re pretty much using it for exam purposes, taking X-rays and doing annual exams,” said Bangerter. “But it can

also be used for more procedures. We can have a dental hygienist come here and do cleanings; we can do minor work like fillings. We’re not currently set up to do that, but it can be done.”

The number of Soldiers who visit the dental van varies. It’s been as low as six a day, to as many as 35, he said. For each unit that goes through the PDP, the dental charts for Soldiers who are ready for their yearly dental exam, are overdue for their yearly exam, or are within 90 days of their yearly exam, are pulled from the clinic and sent to the PDP desk, according to Bangerter.

“As those Soldiers come through they’re sent back here to the van,” Bangerter said. “We can comfortably handle between six and 10 patients per hour.”

Soldiers with significant dental problems, such as large cavities or wisdom teeth problems, may be deemed temporarily non-deployable.

“Basically, anything that is causing the Soldier pain, or that we suspect could cause the Soldier pain within the next six months, we need to take care of,” he said.

Fortunately, most dental problems are fixable and the Soldier is able to have the problem taken care of and join his unit.

Should Soldiers experience dental emergencies downrange, Bangerter, Carmona, and another dental specialist will be on hand to handle basic dental needs such as fillings or tooth extraction, or cleanings.



Capt. Chad Bangerter, 173d Airborne Brigade dentist performs a dental exam on Spc. Katy Allen, a soldier with A Company, 173d Support Battalion The dental exams are performed right outside the Pre-Deployment Processing area in a specially-equipped bus that is on loan from the European Regional Dental Command from Heidelberg, Germany.

Out & About



By Dorothy Spagnuolo

Spring forward, fall back

Sunday at 2 a.m. is when Italy, and almost all the rest of Europe, makes the switch from *Ora Solare* (solar time) to *Ora Legale* (legal time) – this is Daylight Savings Time.



In other words, we are going to get one hour less sleep the night between Saturday and Sunday. Remember to set your clock one hour forward when you go to sleep Saturday night.

One way to remember is the saying “Spring Forward, Fall Back.” Daylight saving time ends Oct. 30 at 3 a.m.

Egg breaking

On Saturday at the *Palladio* shopping mall, enjoy watching people break a huge chocolate Easter egg after which there will be a piece for everyone present. No time has been set but it will be sometime in the afternoon.

Also find a small Easter market near the back entrance of the mall and a “caterpillar” train ride for the young ones.

Seasonal feasts

In Italy, a country still bound to

tradition and to the produce of the land, tables at Easter favor a combination of seasonal and symbolic ingredients that welcome in the spring as much as they celebrate the Christian feast of Easter.

Tender green vegetables play an important role, whether they appear in delicate savory tarts as starters or in the form of sauces or stuffing for first courses.

The most classic tart is the *Torta Pasqualina*, layers of puff pastry covering a ricotta and artichoke mixture with the added surprise of whole eggs baked into the filling. Tender spinach leaves can be used instead of the artichokes, and the effect is again that of springtime freshness.

The first course for an Easter dinner is often composed of rich egg pasta, such as ravioli stuffed with spinach and ricotta, or a subtle dish of lasagna filled with asparagus, another of the seasonal delights.

The main course will almost inevitably be lamb, most tender and succulent at this time of year. Whether in the traditional guise of roast leg of lamb, flavored with rosemary, thyme, and white wine, as a visually impressive *corona di carré d’agnello*, rack of lamb shaped into a guard of honor, or in a mouth-watering casserole with artichokes, it provides a delicious highpoint for a family occasion.

For dessert, Italians can enjoy a slice of *Colomba*, a delicate dove-shaped sweet cake that originally came from Lombardy. This yeasty dough comes with fragrant candied fruit and a crunchy topping of almonds and sugar, and is a perfect way to round off a meal, accompanied by a glass of a sweet dessert wine.

Easter event in Florence

Easter Sunday is one of the most important days of the Florentine calendar. It’s the day of the *Scoppio del Carro*, an ancient ritual that dates back to the 12th century.

From the Piazzale della Porta al Prato to the Piazza del Duomo, a long parade of trumpeters, drummers, costumed dignitaries and flag throwers escort the *carro*, a tall, heavy wooden cart, pulled by four white oxen through the streets arriving at Piazza del Duomo.

If you want to get a clear view of the procession, be at Porta al Prato when it sets off at 10 a.m.

The *scoppio*, explosion, happens at 11 a.m. when a mechanical dove is lit by the priest during mass. The dove flies along a wire stretched from the altar to the carro outside and sets off an explosion of fireworks.

If all goes smoothly, it is said that the year’s harvests will be good.

Sharks attack in Munich

By Mark Saddler
Special to the Outlook

It was a cold February day in Munich, snow flying, icy roads and hundreds of other sea animals (swimmers) to deal with, but that wasn’t about to change what this group of sharks had in mind.

The Vicenza Mako Shark swim team took to the Olympic pool with nothing but winning in mind and heart.

It started Saturday night with the 200-meter individual medley. DJ Schendel would lead the way with a gold medal turning in a time of 3:50.56 for the girls’ 8 year olds and younger competition. Soon after, 11-year-olds Tiffany Saddler and Savannah Owens would take, 4th and 5th in the 200 IM. Then came Jono Higgins turning in a time of 3:08.72 for the silver medal, his pray just beating him to the wall and narrowly escaping with the gold.

Every team knew these sharks meant business. Sunday morning would not be any different for the team; each swimmer knew that this was the day they work so hard for.

Once again Schendel would start them off with gold in the girls’ 8-year-olds 100 IM and silver in 50-meter freestyle. Hando Jefferson would take bronze for the boys’ 8-year-olds 100 IM. In the 11-year-olds

girls, Tiffany Saddler took another silver, with teammate Savannah Owens taking the bronze. Jono Higgins took silver in the 11-year-old boys.

As the day wore on, the sharks kept adding up the medals and team points.

Finally it was over, the team looked to each other to see how much damage was done.

Coach Jane [Higgins] as always was proud of her swimmers.

The team waited patiently for the finial medal count and point standings.

The team landed in the middle with 761 team points and 14 individual medals.

The 4 high scores for the team where: first place Jono Higgins, 3 silver medals and 1 bronze collecting 67 team points; second place Tiffany Saddler with 3 silver medals and 66 team points; third place DJ Schendel with 2 gold medals and 1 silver for 57 team points; and forth place Savannah Owens with 2 bronze medals and 52 points.

Other team swimmers contributed to the medal count as well as the overall score. This was the finish to another great year from the Vicenza Mako Shark swim team.

Ask any of the Mako Sharks and they will tell you, “We are a team. It’s how we are, it’s how we’re coached.”

Now Showing

Caserma Ederle Theater

March 23	Fat Albert (PG13)	7 p.m.
March 24	White Noise (PG13)	7 p.m.
March 25	Hide and Seek (R)	7 p.m.
	Elektra (PG13)	10 p.m.
March 26	Racing Stripes (PG)	2 p.m.
	Elektra (PG13)	7 p.m.
	Hide and Seek (R)	10 p.m.
March 27	Elektra (PG13)	2 p.m.
	Hide and Seek (R)	7 p.m.

Spring Break Schedule

April 11	Scooby Doo: Monsters Unleashed	3:30 p.m.
April 12	Finding Nemo	4 p.m.
April 13	Finding Nemo	3:30 p.m.
April 15	Brother Bear	3:30 p.m.

Family Nights

April 6	Finding Nemo	5 p.m.
April 20	Scooby Doo: Monsters Unleashed	5 p.m.
April 27	Pooh’s Heffalump Movie	5 p.m.

Admission for Spring Break Schedule and Family Nights:
Adults age 12 and over \$4, children \$1.25.
Wednesdays and Family Night will be on a trail basis.
Response from the communy will determine continuation.

Camp Darby Theater

March 25	Are We There Yet	7 p.m.
March 26	Assault On Precinct 13	7 p.m.

Movie Synopsis

HIDE AND SEEK - *Robert DeNiro, Dakota Fanning.* As a widower tries to piece together his life in the wake of his wife’s suicide, he discovers that his young daughter is coping with the death in a strange and scary manner. His daughter, Emily, finds solace by creating a creepy, maniacal imaginary friend with a terrifying vendetta.

ELEKTRA - *Jennifer Garner, Terence Stamp.* When Elektra is released from the hospital after a near-death experience, she becomes an assassin trained by a crew of killers known as The Order of the Hand. Their leader, Kirigi, sends Elektra on a mission to kill Mark Miller and his young daughter, Abby. Soon, however, Elektra befriends her would-be victims and defends them both from Kirigi’s ninja assassins. But standing up to the Order sentences her to death.

RACING STRIPES - *Voice of Frankie Muniz, Hayden Panettiere.* In the middle of a raging thunderstorm, a traveling circus accidentally leaves behind some very precious cargo, a baby zebra. The gangly little foal is rescued by horse farmer Nolan Walsh, a champion thoroughbred trainer, and brought to his Kentucky farm. The Walsh farm borders the Turfway Racetrack, where highly skilled thoroughbreds compete for horse racing’s top honor, the Kentucky Crown. From the first moment Stripes lays eyes on the track, he’s hooked. He knows that if he could just get the chance, he could leave all those other horses in the dust. What he doesn’t know is that he’s not exactly a horse. But with the help of the misfit troupe of barnyard friends and a teenage girl, he sets out to achieve his dream of racing with thoroughbreds.

ARE WE THERE YET - *Ice Cube, Nia Long.* Nick, a smooth operator, is trying to land a date with Suzanne. Problem is Suzanne, a divorcee, is stuck working in Vancouver and miserable because she misses her kids. Seizing the opportunity, Nick gallantly offers to make her wish come true - and his own in the process - by bringing seven-year-old Kevin and eleven-year-old Lindsey up from Portland, Oregon to be reunited with their mom. What Nick doesn’t know is that Suzanne’s children think that no man is good enough for their mom and will do everything they can to make the trip a nightmare for him.

ASSAULT ON PRECINCT 13 - *Ethan Hawke, Laurence Fishburne.* A notorious cop-killer and mobster Marion Bishop is unexpectedly brought into a Detroit precinct during a blizzard on New Year’s Eve. By nightfall, the remaining cops and prisoners find themselves fighting for their lives against a group of rogue cops intent on taking down Bishop before he testifies against them in the courtroom. Now it’s up to the officers and inmates on the inside to band together just to survive this one night.

Admission: Adults age 12 and over \$4, children \$2.
The Ederle Theatre box office opens one hour prior to show time.
Tickets to blockbuster shows are presold at Baskin Robbins.



Anna Calabrese, left, gets ready to take a group photo after her class "Remember Italy?" near the fountain in front of *Villa Tacchi*. The class focused on how to photograph by understanding the scenery and lighting. After the class, participants had the opportunity to practice what they learned in the beautiful park of the villa.

CIAO women's conference celebrates history, impact

Photos by Laura Kreider
Outlook Staff

By Natalie Larson
CIAO representative

The Combined Italian American Organization offered 130 registered participants from the Caserma Ederle community the chance to enjoy a special one-day women's conference Thursday at the majestic Villa Tacchi in the town of Gazzo.

Sponsored by the Vicenza Military Spouses' and Civilians' Club and Equal Employment Opportunity, the CIAO conference was a compilation of sessions featuring topics pertinent to Women's History Month and of interest to those living in Italy.

From Italian cooking classes with Chef Paolo of the restaurant Nogarazza and wine tasting with Antonietta and Rodolfo of Villa Sceriman, to communicating across cultures with Cindy Pierson and uncovering the male-female dilemma with Ann Campbell, presenters shared a little something with everyone who attended the conference.

"I love CIAO," said Conference Organizer Sandy Segura. "The programs we offer at CIAO are an example of the exceptional variety of things available in our Italian community and in our American one, as well. Having lived in the Vicenza community a long time and participated in fun events, I've always wanted to be a part of it. And, this year, I got to be a part of it in a big way."

Volunteers for the CIAO conference pulled together to create a tremendous experience complete with childcare, transportation, breakfast and lunch, easy registration and door prizes available for each and every participant. Luckily, the beautiful spring day afforded leisurely tours of the villa's grounds on Thursday, despite the fact that just a little over a week earlier, volunteers and presenters worked overtime to reschedule the conference due to the snowy weather.

CIAO received rave reviews from attendees like Irene Vincent who "enjoyed spending time with friends and meeting new ones" and Kathryn Catlett who was thrilled "to have a special day just for me without the children."

While presenters like Emilia Grillo showed how to whip up delectable Italian desserts in a moment's notice and Davide Luisotto explained how Villa Tacchi's 18th century icebox had been transformed into one of Vicenza's only modern day wine cellars, others were learning about self care tips for women's health and how to deal with their children's "terrible one's, two's and three's."

After attending a session on how to plan great road trips designed by Beatrice Giometto and Lisa Xodo from Caserma Ederle's own Information, Tours and Registration, Karen

Hartless was "surprised to learn that different pricing options in train travel will allow my family to travel cheaper than we have in the past. I thought I knew a lot about travel but I'm definitely taking away some great tips from today's class."

If you missed this year's CIAO conference, there are still plenty of opportunities to get

involved with other great events on and off post.

For more information on how to become a VMSCC member and join mini-clubs catering to your interests, stop by the Thrift Shop located next to the Italian BNL bank.

"The Male/Female Dilemma."
CIAO is a social, cultural and educational conference designed to inform members of the Vicenza community about Italian culture and women's issues.



"The Terrible Ones, Twos, and Threes" is one of the classes taught during the CIAO conference in the Sala Stemmi, the Coat of Arms room, one of the meeting rooms at *Villa Tacchi*.

Villa Tacchi



Above: The view of the *Sala Rosa*, or pink room, one of the meeting rooms in the villa. The wooden beam ceiling and floor in pink marble are both in the Venetian style. Several rooms are named after the color of their walls and marble floors.



Left: Detail of the statue of the fountain located in the park facing *Villa Tacchi*. Below: Detail of a fireplace in one of the several rooms of the *Villa Tacchi*. The villa, built at the end of the 17th century, is located in the countryside East of Vicenza. Influenced by the Palladian style, *Villa Tacchi* has been restored and transformed into a meeting center with a capacity of over 200 seats.



Left: View of the chapel of the villa, which is in the villa's park, near a small pond.